

BIG SANDWASH DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ANNUAL MEETING

March 4, 1998

PRESENT: Division of Water Rights: Bob Leake, Gertrudys Adkins, Lee Sim, John L. Larsen, Ralph Johnson; Associated Water Users: Don Winterton, Lynn Burton, Keith Mortensen; River Commissioner: Bill Christensen; Secretary: Carolyn Winterton

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order 1:10 p.m. by President Keith Mortensen. He then turned the meeting over to Lee Sim.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Big Sandwash Distribution System Annual Meeting were read by Carolyn Winterton. Keith Mortensen moved that the minutes be approved. Don Winterton seconded the motion. All voted aye.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Mr. Christensen reported that there had not been any significant changes from previous years. The Hartman filing is still difficult to control. He has not corrected his head gate, but he did install a measuring weir. As far as Mr. Christensen is aware, he has never made a change of use filing.

Mr. Leake is attempting to set up a meeting with Mr. Nick Stevenson to discuss his ponds, the water rights and the dam safety concerns.

Mr. Sim said the State would follow through on the Hartman matter with a letter. Mr. Christensen will continue to deliver water on the ground water filing according to his determination as to what source is available. Moon Lake Water Users will probably initiate court action against the filing.

The water supply appears to be very good this year. It is suspected that there may be flooding on the major rivers, but it is hoped it will follow the pattern of 1995 and jump the banks, ridding the river bed of trash that plugs the head gates.

Lynn Burton moved that Commissioner's report be approved. Don Winterton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER:

Keith Mortensen moved that Bill Christensen be appointed Commissioner of the Big Sandwash Distribution area. Lynn Burton seconded the motion. All voted aye.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Hartman matter: Mr. Christensen said he would appreciate some help in getting Mr. Hartman to put in the correct facilities for measuring his water so the rest of it could go on down the creek. Mr. Hartman claims that Charles Hansen and Moon Lake Water Users get more water than their filing entitles them to. Because of this, Mr. Leake feels that Mr. Hartman will not capitulate any more without some form of court action.

The next action would be to issue an ultimatum and if he does not cooperate, then a court action would be considered. Mr. Christensen mentioned that Mr. Hartman has installed another head gate and is using it illegally. He would like to have this gate removed.

Crystal Ranch - Uintah Basin Replacement Act: Comments on the EIS statement are due by March 17, 1997. Mr. Mortensen stated local feelings are that there are problems with the water rights and the project cannot be supported as it now stands.

Sandwash Irrigation Company: Mr. Christensen noted that the company is operating differently than the court order. They are drawing their water more like a call system, taking it earlier or later in the season, but they are still using the same amount of total water throughout the irrigation season.

Adjudication of Water Filings: Mr. Sim stated that Adjudication is now being done on Ashley Valley and will probably continue for another five or six years. There are no plans beyond that. They are hoping the Compact will be ratified and then they can step in and adjudicate from that point. One-half of the state has had a proposed determination done, but very few of those (15%) have been decreed.

Leasing of Water: The state is still talking about leasing water from the Green River to Las Vegas. Both Colorado and Wyoming have promised to fight Utah if they decide to do this.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.